

THE LEGISLATURE

The Text Book Bill-Freight Rates.

The House Committee on Internal Improvements reported out a bill yesterday, Senator Newell's bill, for the reduction of rates of various companies. Since the report of the committee was received, the measure has received no little attention and provoked sharp criticism. After declaring express companies common carriers, requiring them to state in their published rates under the control of the Railroad Commissioners, the relation of extortions rates must be sought in this wise. By filing written complaint with the Board of Railroad Commissioners, after sufficient time, the company is bound to be before the Commission will notify the company. If the company refuses or neglects to refund such excess within sixty days, the person or persons can bring suit at their own expense to recover the amount. This feature of the bill, being severely criticised, and Mr. Mayes' amendments preferred which if adopted, will make a new bill out of Senator Newell's bill.

Mr. Schenck introduced a bill authorizing express companies to carry United States Mail.

House bill appropriating one-third of the entire revenue for school purposes was read third time and passed.

House bill providing for establishing a training school in connection with Lincoln Institute was read third time and passed.

Authorizing school bonds in cities of 1,000 inhabitants to set aside annually \$220 for a public library fund. Lost.

Exempting farmers mutual insurance companies from all state provisions of the insurance laws. Passed.

Placing watermelons, cantaloupes and muskmelon class "R" of freight schedule. Passed.

Fixing January 1 as the time from which ordinary taxes on county treasures shall be assessed.

There was a red-hot debate in the Senate over the consideration of Mr. Ramm's bill providing that only small residents of the State shall be compelled to hold office in the county in which they resided as a result, to Mrs. Anna Baxter, County Clerk of Jasper County, that she should be looking after household duties instead of holding a good office that several male Democrats had. Last week, the bill was indefinitely postponed, it was believed that it could not be resurrected, but Mr. Ramm had the vote reconsidered, and after the statement had talked themselves down a vote was taken with this result: Yes, 36; No, 12. Lieutenant Governor proposed the bill, and he voted in favor of the bill, and it was accordingly ordered engrossed. It is stated that the bill can not pass, but the man may prove a mistake. The Lieutenant Governor lives in Jasper County, and as Mrs. Anna Baxter was elected to the Legislature, the democratic ticket, it is to be hoped that he voted for her. His vote on the Ramm bill, in view of all the facts, was in the nature of a surprise. The Jasper County Democrats have an abiding faith in Mrs. Baxter, and as she, Anna Baxter, will probably give the Lieutenant Governor a talking to when he returns home.

Seal and Jefferson City crossed words in the House with results very disastrous to Seal.

The House Redistricting Committee held a hearing, discussed congressional, senatorial, judicial and representative apportionment, with the result that a bill was drawn, fixing the number of Representatives under the new apportionment at 130, the same as at present. The bill given Seal County 3, Cass County 2, Linn 2, St. Croix County 2, Saline 2, Jackson County 6, St. Louis City 15, and all the other counties in the State one each. Jackson County gains 2 and St. Louis 1, while Johnson, Pettis and Noxaway Counties lose one each.

Among the bills engrossed by the House are some which are very important. One, a bill introduced by Mr. Fogel, of Schuyler, amends the Revenue law so that certain persons holding notes and other paper tax on such property or forfeit ownership. According to the provisions of the bill, the Assessor will be furnished with a seal, and when notes and evidences and evidences of indebtedness are presented to him, he will issue a certificate of title. The holder will then secure the assistance of the law in establishing his claim. In designating what the Assessors shall contain, the following is added: "A statement of all notes unsecured by mortgaged or otherwise held by the owner of the paper, the amount given for the amount unpaid, and the rate of interest thereon, stating whether solvent. A statement of all notes secured by mortgage or deed of trust, giving the name of the owner, of the property, the date when given, the amount, the amount given for the amount unpaid, and rate of interest of said notes. A statement of all bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness, whether State, county, town, city, township, in respect of which the paper is given, giving the name of owner, of paper of paper, of date when given, the amount given for the amount unpaid and the rate of interest thereon, stating whether solvent or insolvent."

And by adding the following words to said bill, it is provided that all notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness made taxable under laws, and not assessed and described as above provided, are hereby declared void for want of notice and non-negotiable and non-encumberable and personal property whatsoever, and are excluded further, that the law failing to give in to an assessor any note, bond or other evidence of debt, describing the same as above set forth, and who shall transfer, sell or dispose of them to any other person, shall be deemed guilty of obstructing justice, false pretenses and embezzlement as provided by law in such cases, and provided further, that the law shall not add any person to maintain any right to or in any property that he fails to have assessed as hereinbefore provided.

Mr. Cook's bill, which provides for the assessment of a tax of \$100 on the \$100 of gross earnings, was passed without opposition. It requires all such companies operating cars, whether wholly or partly, in this State, to make a sworn report to the Auditor generally between the first of April and May, the gross revenue of the roads done in Missouri. Upon the statement the companies shall pay to the State Treasury the tax named. A failure to report for more than thirty days after June 1 will incur a fine of \$1,000 per day.

The bill, after consideration of the committee, was referred, and as directed, the man who prepared the original measure are not able to recognize the mangled remains of what was once the committee bill. It was literally torn to shreds and every prominent feature was deleted that had been inserted with the minority against its passage.

As the bill now stands, the Governor is required to appoint a school book commission of four competent persons, and of this commission the State Superintendent is to be a member. The commission is to be appointed by the Governor, within thirty days after the session ends, with some school-book publishing firm to supply the State with books for a period of five years, or to provide to compile a series of books, the entire publication of which is to be done by the State.

The commission is not empowered to adopt the latter course if deemed inexpedient, and in the event that such a decision is reached \$100,000 is appropriated to be used for the purpose. The books contracted for are to be used for the education of all children in the schools of the English-speaking and their Democratic allies.

Take your poultry to Weber & Burgess, Forest City, Friday, Saturday and Monday, March 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, and you'll get the highest price market value of F. H. Wiley & Co., who will be there on the following dates:

Attend the Will Penney stock sale on Friday, March 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 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